

Dear Members of the St. George's Community:

I was wrong, and I apologize.

I thought I had carefully written and delivered a talk in the chapel service on September 17th that was appropriate for St. George's middle and upper school students, faculty, and staff. I was wrong, and I apologize.

I failed to make clear my point about trusting God, no matter what our fears may be. Instead, I offended and even scared some of you. Hearts were broken, mine included, because of what I said.

I thought I had done enough of my own, hard work on my own racism to be able to share some of what I had learned. I was wrong, and I apologize.

We are all students in the school of life, no matter how old we get to be. I still have some things to learn about what to say and not to say about race.

I thought I was communicating something helpful in my talk about what I had learned from my mistakes in life, including the moment in my teen-aged years when I was afraid of someone my own age whose skin color was different from mine. I was wrong, and I apologize.

In my talk I failed to say, clearly and directly, that I should never have been afraid of Black boys. Period. I also failed to say, clearly and directly, that, with God's help, I am no longer afraid.

I thought some of you who have been through some pretty troubling times lately might be heartened by my reflections. I was wrong, and I apologize.

I have learned that, as Bryan Stevenson says, we are all more than the worst mistake we have ever made. I ask your prayers and seek your forgiveness, even though I know you may not be able to offer either or both of those to me, now or ever. I continue to pray for your healing from this painful time.

~ The Rev. Thomas A. Momberg